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The next step is easy, and he takes it. He dislikes to think of the Americas passing through any such "reconstruction" experience as Europe has had since 1914. Therefore he now pleads for resort to reason, not to force, to trained investigators of facts and not to rhetorical partisans and beaters of the drums of war. Having created his judicial and arbitral tribunal, he wants it to hold its sessions on soil conquered and held by Latins. If there is to be a Pan-America capital, he wants it to be nearer the regions where Latins dominate.

This is a straw that it will be well to watch float down the stream of time. Races that have produced a Drago of the Argentine and a Barbosa of Brazil need not dread experimenting with their own system of league formation for juridical ends.

At a time when neither Europe nor the United States seem to have much vital faith in an international court competent to deal with international disputes, and thus to avoid wars, it is refreshing to see Latin-America considering what its policy is to be.

FRANCE

AFTER the experiences following August 1, 1914, it is natural to expect evidence of nervousness in France. We have no doubt that the speech by the former Premier, Jean Louis Barthou, March 26, delivered in the Chamber of Deputies during a discussion of French foreign policy, expressed views widely current not only in France, but in England also. It is probably true that French merchants are interested in the cotton of Adana and in the oil of Mosul, in consequence of which there is a real bone of contention between France and England, and that is Syria. It is a familiar fact that, while France breast Germany during those distressful years, England was overthrowing the Turks in Asia Minor and laying the ground for claims to the vast reservoirs of wealth in that section of the world. This is a fact to be considered in any attempt to analyze the present strained relations between France and England. But let it not be overlooked that France has suffered; still suffers. It may be true, as the Deputy Minister of Public Works, M. Le Trocquer, says, that Great Britain has promised France, out of the English stock of coal available for disposal, 60 per cent, instead of the 20 previously promised, and that at a special price; but the fact remains that the treaty guaranteeing English and American protection for France along the east is a dead letter. While England has obtained security by the destruction of the German fleet, it is also a fact that, as M. Barthou said, "France stands alone." This ought not to be so. We are convinced that France is not a militaristic nation, and that she desires no conquests;

but we are also clearly convinced that France feels the justice of her demand that she should be reimbursed for the losses which have come to her as a result of the ruthless attack across her industrial areas. France is entitled to reparation. We all said this during the war. It was provided for in the treaty ending the war. We should not forget it now. Our view is that France should obtain these reparations in discussion with the Allies if possible, and that she will receive them that way; but, failing this now, we find it difficult to criticise her for moving her troops across the Rhine. It is wholly unjust that England should be credited with all the generosity toward Germany, and that France should be charged with all the sternness toward that arch aggressor. That is not fair to France. France has grievances well known and justified. The French are intelligent, free of sentimentalism, interested in realities, and swift to execute ideas. It is natural, after the experiences of this war, after the failure of Germany to fulfill her engagements, and in the light of the history of a thousand years, that France should desire to know where she stands and that there should be a Nationalist Party favoring military occupation of the Ruhr basin. In the absence of any agreed evidence of support from the outside, it is easy to understand why France should take upon herself the enforcement of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. We confess to a feeling of pride and sympathy with the former Premier when he said: "Great Britain knows how to defend her interests. France is still strong enough to defend herself with her allies if they agree and without them if they withdraw." That utterance was dignified, justified, French. It is said that the Frenchman is conceited only as regards France. There is nothing, certainly, of the American brag and bunkum in him. The utterance of M. Barthou was not sharp or strident. It was out of the Frenchman in him. The one thing the French may be expected to do is to stand by *La Patrie*. The five years of war will reach their climax of infamy if, deprived of protection from further attacks on her east, France, *la duce France*, is left alone to obtain those reparations agreed to by all the belligerents in the Treaty of Versailles.

SYRIA'S CLAIM

ONE of the most dramatic, and for a time disturbing, incidents of the month has been the assertion by Prince Feisal of autonomy of an Arabian State in Syria, his elevation to the headship of the same, and his defiance of Great Britain and France in their determination to partition territory nominally Turkish but which the Arabs now claim must be ruled by Arabs.

Proceeding to Paris following his assertion of his

people's claims, Feisul has been dealing with the representatives of France, and his latest utterances indicate some modification of his insistence. What these claims originally were may be inferred from the appeal which he sent to President Wilson and the Government of the United States. It said:

"The Arab district, namely, Syria, including Palestine, Hedjaz, and Mesopotamia, which has suffered for centuries under Turkish misrule, unable to get justice, has revolted against the Caliph's call and rendered the call of Islam for a holy war void in the Mohammedan world.

"This was done by the Arabs for a realization of the aspirations and rights which the Allies, especially Great Britain, acknowledged and promised to secure for us. The principles laid down by you were gladly accepted by the Allies, who admitted that the war was one of liberation and not of conquest. The liberated nations, especially Syria, were assured that they would be given the right to choose the power they desired to assist them in government.

"The Arabs rushed into the World War upon these principles, in full confidence of the clear promises of the Allies that the Arabs would be given liberty. After the armistice, a secret treaty, unknown to the Arabs, divided Syria into four zones, under different administrations, which made the population furious. But public excitement was quieted by assurances that these divisions were temporary, and that they would vanish with the military government.

"Because of the great danger of having all Syria inflamed into insurrection, it was necessary to call a constituent assembly, elected by the nation, which proclaimed the country's independence and elected me chief, thus assuring peace to the country, which conforms to the promises and declarations of the Allies.

"We want only our rights, conferred by nature and by our great sacrifices in the war. We entertain the hope that the Allies will receive our new regulations with pleasure and endeavor to remove the obstacles which might hinder our progress. We desire nothing except to live peacefully in a peaceful world. Owing to the present situation, I hope you will assist us in defending our case and render a decision in conformity with your principles.

"We intend to safeguard the interests of the Allies in our country and protect the rights of all foreigners. The definitely arranged division of Syria into various parts is detrimental to our national life. It is impossible, for both political and economic reasons, to have peace without liberty and unity."

INCREASING THE SPEED

THE BIG BERTHAS bombarded Paris from a distance of approximately seventy-five miles. A French lieutenant, Delamare-Maze, has invented a contrivance by which it will be possible to double the range of guns of the pattern of the Big Berthas. It is reported that the velocity of the shell will be increased from 2,625 feet to 4,625 feet a second and the range lengthened to 150 miles. This is evidently a serious matter, for the French Government has purchased the patent. There-

fore this instrument of destruction is a thing to be reckoned with.

So the merry game goes on. Shortly there will be practically no limit to the destruction possible to life and property which an enemy will be able to inflict. As the *London Times* complains in its number for April 2:

"London, for instance, could be bombarded by batteries of new guns stationed at Zeebrugge or mounted on ships cruising far from land in the North Sea; and at the same time be bombed by a fleet of thousands of airplanes carrying far heavier supplies of far more destructive explosives than anything yet seen. The prospects, especially for big towns, which would certainly be the first objectives to be attacked, is appalling. Whole areas would be wiped out, with their human populations, and it is conceivable that an unscrupulous power, making an unjustified attack, might so take its intended victim by surprise as to end the war almost before it began. . . . War is destined to become a much more serious menace than it has been to the prosperity and happiness of the world."

Yes, that is the plain fact.

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING DEFEATED

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES on February 25 so reacted to the report of its Committee on Military Affairs, favoring compulsory military training of the youth of the land, that it was decided to eliminate the section from the army bill, for which the House later stood sponsor.

In the Senate friends of compulsory training also controlled the Committee on Military Affairs, and hence the Senate's army bill included provisions making the compulsory system operative in 1921, at a cost which, at the lowest, meant not less than \$700,000,000 a year.

Debate of this bill and its section for continuing in times of peace the system used in "the selective service" of the "World War" opened early in April, Senator Wadsworth, of New York, championing the measure, and Senator McKellar, of Tennessee, attacking it. Two days' debate indicated so clearly that the plan for setting up conscription in the United States could not pass through the Senate as at present constituted and with world conditions as they now are, that it was agreed to drop the section fixing the system on the nation. The proposed increase of the military forces, it was decided, is to be left to the voluntary action of individuals, for whom special provisions are to be made in the way of military training and general and vocational education at specified times and regular seasons.

It was in vain that champions of the compulsory system cited, with more or less justification, the claim that the President and the Secretary of War favored the